

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

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R 171832Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1934

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 15737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB GW GE US UK FR

SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN SENAT-GDR TALKS ON SEWAGE  
MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY. FRG HAS INFORMED ALLIES THAT BERLIN SENAT DESIRES TO HOLD TALKS WITH GDR AUTHORITIES ON WATER SEWAGE MANAGEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF 1974 SENAT-GDR AGREEMENT ON SEWAGE. ALLIES HAVE EMPHASIZED NEED FOR FULL INFORMATION ON SENAT PLANS AND HAVE ASKED THAT SENAT GO INTO THE MATTER WITH ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG REP (HENZE) INFORMED THE ALLIES IN BONN GROUP ON SEPTEMBER 14 THAT THE WEST BERLIN SENAT HAS CONCLUDED THAT IT MUST HAVE TALKS WITH GDR IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE GDR'S LONG-RANGE PLANS CONCERNING SEWAGE MANAGEMENT AND TREATMENT FACILITIES. THE SENAT FEELS THAT THE CONVERSATIONS MUST BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO ALLOW FOR APPROPRIATE CHANGES IN THE SENAT'S OWN PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.

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2. HENZE PROVIDED US WITH THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND FOR

THE SENAT VIEW. THE SENAT HAD THOUGHT FOR A LONG TIME THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR TALKS ON THE SUBJECT WITH THE GDR. HOWEVER, THAT SITUATION APPEARS TO HAVE CHANGED. ACCORDING TO HENZE, ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS WITH GDR OFFICIALS IN THE APRIL 10 AND 11 BERLINER ZEITUNG INDICATE THAT THE LONG-RANGE PLANNING IN EAST AND WEST BERLIN NO LONGER FITS TOGETHER. THE SENAT FEELS THAT ITS POST-1980 PLANS WILL HAVE TO BE MODIFIED TO BE CONGRUENT WITH GDR PLANNING.

3. THE GDR APPARENTLY INTENDS TO STOP PUTTING SEWAGE INTO CHANNELS FLOWING INTO TEGELER SEE. INSTEAD, THEY INTEND TO USE THE SPREE THUS JEOPARDIZING THE HAVELSE. AS A RESULT, THE HAVELSE WOULD BECOME POLLUTED AND EUTROPHIED. IT WOULD ALSO AFFECT GROUND WATER AND DRILLING FOR WATER IN THE VICINITY.

4. THE SENAT HAD PLANNED TO BEGIN NEXT YEAR ON CONSTRUCTION OF A SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT TO DEAL WITH THE TEGELER SEE AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF 60 MILLION DM. SUCH A PLANT WOULD NOW APPEAR TO BE IRRELEVANT.

5. HENZE SAID THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE GDR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND THE OFFICE OF THE SENATOR FOR BUILDING AND HOUSING. THEY WOULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF THE DECEMBER 1974 SENAT-GDR AGREEMENT ON TRANSPORTATION AND TREATMENT OF SEWAGE. UNDER ARTICLE 4, BOTH SIDES MAY APPOINT PERSONS TO CLARIFY DIVERGENCIES OF OPINION OR PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS WOULD BE THE HARMONIZATION OF PLANNING ON THE TRANSPORT OF SEWAGE AS WELL AS THE QUANTITIES.

6. MEICHSNER OF THE BERLIN REPRESENTATION IN BONN ADDED THAT THE INITIAL PURPOSE OF THE CONTACTS WOULD BE TO OBTAIN INFORMATION. THE SENAT ONLY HAD INFORMATION FROM THE PRESS. THEY NEEDED TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN PLANS.

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7. MEICHSNER ALSO NOTED THAT THE 1974 AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN 1979. WHERE WE GO FROM THERE IS "AN OPEN QUESTION." UNDER THE PRESENT AGREEMENT, THE SENAT HAS THE RIGHT TO INQUIRE AS TO WHAT EAST BERLIN IS PLANNING.

8. IN THE DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED, UK REP (HITCH) SAID IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT THAT THE SENAT KEEP THE ALLIES INFORMED ON THIS MATTER. THAT SHOULD BE DONE

IN BERLIN. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER A NEW BK/L WAS  
NEEDED AT THIS STAGE TO AUTHORIZE THE PROPOSED  
DISCUSSIONS, BUT THAT COULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED IN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 15737

BERLIN. IN HIS VIEW, AT THE END OF THE DAY, SOME KIND  
OF ARRANGEMENT OR AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE NEEDED  
CONSIDERING THE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY AND DRASTIC  
REVISIONS INVOLVED. FINALLY, IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT  
THIS IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTER AND THUS A SUBJECT  
FOR FRG-GDR DISCUSSION.

9. US REP AGREED THAT THE NEED FOR MORE INFORMATION  
SEEMED URGENT. THE MAJOR USG CONCERN, WHICH HE WAS  
SURE WAS SHARED BY THE SENAT AND THE FRG, WOULD BE TO  
AVOID GIVING CREDENCE TO THE GDR IDEA THAT THE WSB  
AND THE GDR WERE NEGOTIATING WITH EACH OTHER LIKE TWO  
INDEPENDENT STATES. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SENAT  
SHOULD GO INTO THE MATTER IN DETAIL WITH THE THREE  
MISSIONS IN BERLIN.

10. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) AGREED WITH THOSE VIEWS. HE ASKED IF THE SENAT HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM YET WITH THE ALLIES IN BERLIN. (THE FRG SIDE REPLIED THAT IT WAS BEING DONE AT THE PRESENT TIME.)  
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BOISSIEU OBSERVED THAT THE SENAT WOULD PROBABLY NOT WANT AN AGREEMENT WHILE THE GDR PROBABLY WOULD. HE DOUBTED THAT IT COULD REMAIN AT A LEVEL THAT THE ALLIES WOULD WISH. THE ENTIRE WATER SYSTEM COULD BE BROUGHT INTO QUESTION. BOISSIEU CONCLUDED WITH REMARK THAT FRENCH VIEW ON CONTACTS WAS WELL KNOWN: THERE ARE TOO MANY BETWEEN THE SENAT AND THE GDR -- SOME KNOWN TO THE ALLIES, SOME NOT KNOWN. THE MATTER MUST BE STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY.

11. MEICHSNER REPLIED THAT THE MATTER WAS BEING DISCUSSED IN BERLIN. HE TOOK EXCEPTION TO BOISSIEU'S REMARKS ON CONTACTS, STATING THAT IT WAS THE SENAT'S VIEW THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE UNANNOUNCED CONTACTS WITH THE GDR. HOWEVER, THE WSB WAS NOT A SEPARATE CITY BUT A PART OF A CITY, AND THE PROBLEMS WERE SHARED. CONSULTATIONS WERE PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 4 OF THE AGREEMENT IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE. AN ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR WHICH INCLUDED THE WSB WOULD BE HELPFUL, BUT IT WAS PROBLEMATIC AS THERE WAS NOT PROGRESS ON SUCH AN AGREEMENT.

12. COMMENT: IT WAS NOT CLEAR TO US REPS PRIOR TO (OR DURING) BONN GROUP MEETING HOW ISSUE HAD FOUND ITS WAY ONTO THE AGENDA. IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION SUBSEQUENTLY, LUECKING OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE EXPLAINED IT TO US REP. HE SAID MEICHSNER HAD SENT THE FOREIGN OFFICE A MEMO ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, STATING THAT SENAT WOULD INITIATE TALKS UNDER ARTICLE 4 OF 1974 AGREEMENT UNLESS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY BY THE FONOFF BY MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. LUECKING SAID HE EMPHATICALLY INFORMED MEICHSNER THAT THIS WAS NOT THE WAY BUSINESS WAS TO BE DONE AND THAT ISSUE NEEDED TO BE DISCUSSED FULLY WITH ALLIES. ALTHOUGH MEICHSNER CLAIMED THAT THE ALLIES HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSULTED IN BERLIN, LUECKING WAS DUBIOUS THAT FULL IMPLICATIONS OF MATTER HAD BEEN CONVEYED. IN LUECKING'S VIEW, THE "INFORMATIONAL TALKS" WOULD LOGICALLY LEAD TO DISCUSSIONS OF WHAT WHAT SORT OF AGREEMENT WOULD REPLACE THE 1974 ONE WHEN IT EXPIRED.  
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13. LUECKING'S SOLICITUDE FOR FULL CONSULTATIONS WITH ALLIES IS IN PART AN AFTERMATH OF UNPLEASANTNESS ON THIS SCORE LATE LAST YEAR. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A STRICT MANDATE TO STAY ALERT ON ANYTHING GOING ON IN THE FIELD OF SENAT-GDR OR FRG-GDR RELATIONS WHICH ARE OF PROPER CONCERN TO THE ALLIES AND TO SPEAK UP IF HE SEES A POTENTIAL ISSUE, EVEN IF THE MATTER IS NOT ONE WITHIN HIS PRIMARY FIELD OF RESPONSIBILITY. EMBOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO LUECKING.

14. EMBASSY IMPRESSION IS THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE BONN GROUP DISCUSSION, THE SENAT WILL NOW MAKE A MORE PRECISE PRESENTATION TO THE BERLIN MISSIONS ON WHAT IT HAS IN MIND. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE FROM USBER AS TO WHETHER ANY FURTHER ACTION AT BONN GROUP LEVEL IS INDICATED AT THE PRESENT TIME.  
HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

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